

No 60 March 9th. 1813.

Boyd - 1013 no 8 # 3

An inaugural Dissertation
on
Pulmonary consumption
Submitted to the examination
of the
Rev. J. Andrews D. D. Proctor,
The Trustees of Medical Professors
of the
University of Pennsylvania
for the degree
of
Doctor of Medicine

D^r. Rush esteems pulmonary consumption a disease of the whole arterial system, preceded always by general debility, & determined to the lungs, there producing cough, tubercles, abscess & the other local pulmonary symptoms which attend it.

The truth of this theory of the disease is sufficiently established, & the present essay will therefore offer no arguments in its support, but such as shall necessarily arise from a consideration of the causes, which are acknowledged to produce the disease, the symptoms which attend it, & the remedies which are found best adapted to its cure—

Before commencing the consideration of the causes, I would remark of them, that in proportion as they act suddenly or gradually, the succeeding Disease partakes more or less of the acute or chronic form, in the one case terminating in two or three months, in the other perhaps not in so many years; and also, of their division into remote & exciting, that, the former become the latter, when they act on previously induced debility & that, therefore in treating of them I shall not notice the distinction, but enumerate them in common.

Mal-conformation of the thorax is a frequent cause of phthisis; it may be hereditary, or the effects of accident or fashion, & produces debility by impairing the power of respiration, or exciting a cough; the chronic enlargements of the abdominal viscera & the liver par-ticularly

might have the same effects.

Consumption is induced by many Diseases, often by inflammatory affections of the thoracic viscera, by chronic Diseases in general, but particularly those of the organs of Digestion, by various & intermitting Fevers, influenza, asthma, measles, gout, rheumatism, hypochondriasis, scrofula, the great frequency of consumption in England, has been attributed in part to the general prevalence of this Disease, but this is rendered doubtful by the observation, that although scrofula is very common among the Indians they are rarely affected with phthisis.

Hemoptysis is placed among the frequent causes of consumption by Dr. Buller; it often indicates the existence of a predisposition to, but by its timely aid prevents the occurrence of, the Disease, the removal of which and the means of curing it, which are often carried to a very debilitating length -

Occupations which require a long continu-
ed bent posture of the body, without much
exertion, or such, as are carried on in low
damp & confined situations, those also
which expose the lungs to an atmos-
phere loaded with irritating particles &
thus ^{by} exciting a cough may bring on the
Disease -

Excessive evacuations by diarrhoea, dys-
entery, diabetes, venery, fluor albus, exces-
sive menstruation, lactation, &c Dr. Rush
mentions the case of a young man,
who brought on the disease, by the
flow of saliva induced by smoking
sears. Excep in eating & drinking and
the midnight debaucheries, which so
generally accompany them, may by
the loss of sleep & appetite they occasion,

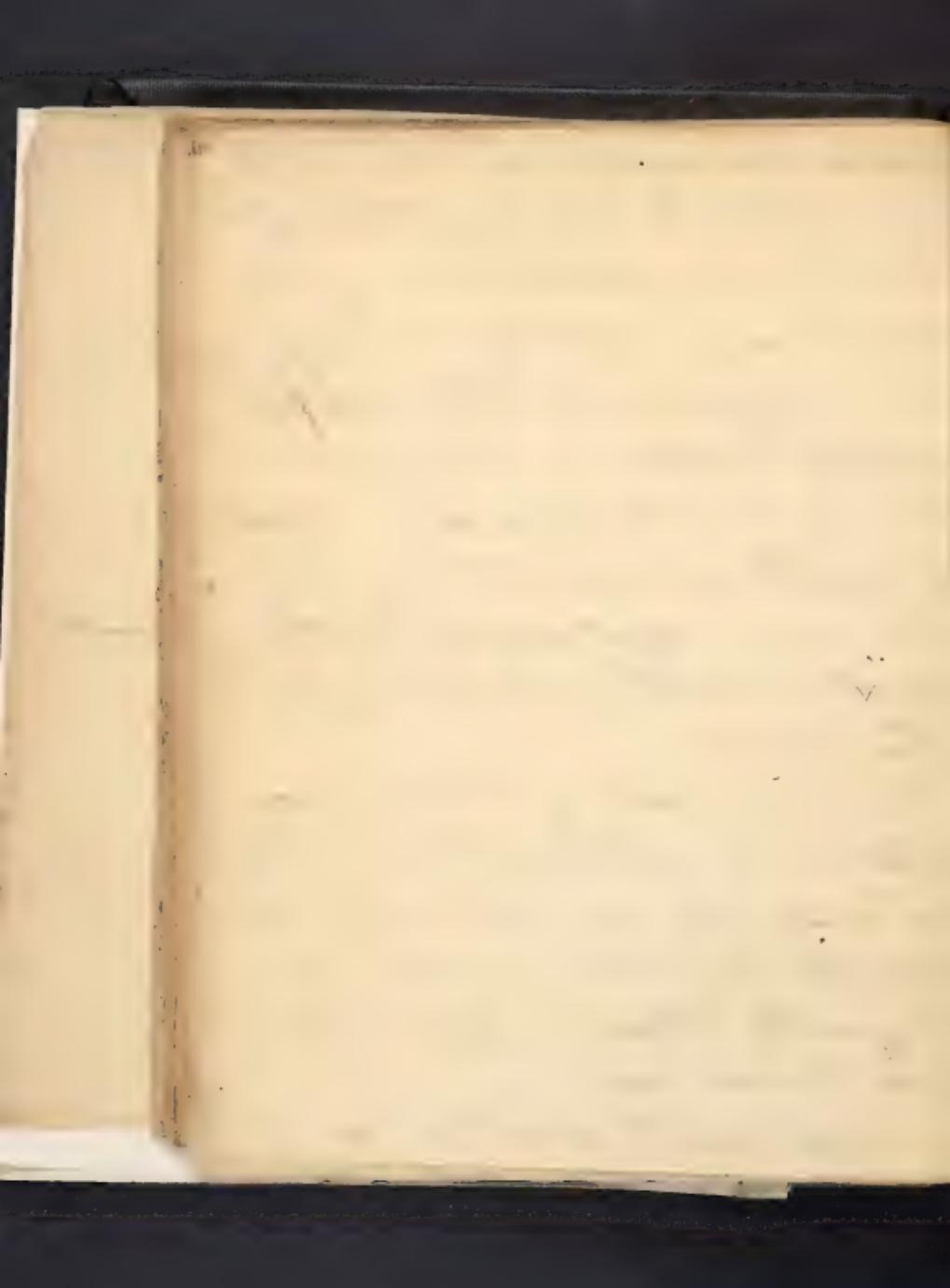
which you I might have told you
in my last letter, had not I omitted them in
my last, or I have not repeated my points of
the last, pointed to before you
here in it, and the before written
of the last, follow this letter and
it is yet sufficient a full account.

and therefore you will perceive
you will miss some points, which you all
will be omitted without trouble, since
you may see them in the last
letter, which I have now done, and
which you will see in the last
letter, which you will see in the last

weakens the constitution, & thus lay the foundation for a fatal phthisis. It is worthy of remark that the age in which we are most apt to indulge in these excesses, is also that most frequently attacked by consumption. Likewise, a diet too attenuous, or composed of aliments not sufficiently nourishing, this may in part account for the greater liability of the female sex to the disease.

It is induced also by violent passions, affections, or vexations of the mind; hence the reason why men of an irritable and sprightly disposition, & women are so frequently attacked by consumption; also studious men.

hidden growth about the age of 16



puberty, & the obliteration of the Thy-
roids gland, Dr. Park mentions among
the causes of phthisis -

Humours repelled from the surface of the
body, & the repetition of an accustomed
change - Frequent alterations of not
cold weather, hence variable climates
& the more variable portions of the year
are so far liable to consumptions -

There is a hereditary predisposition to
consumption, independent of the mal-
conformation formerly mentioned, which
equally favors the production of the
disease -

Phthisis is not born, or made contagious, if it
is so, it happens very seldom, & only via
the 'alio breath & sweat' an old pseu-
dodox - Dr. Allen never saw a case which
could be certainly traced to contagion.



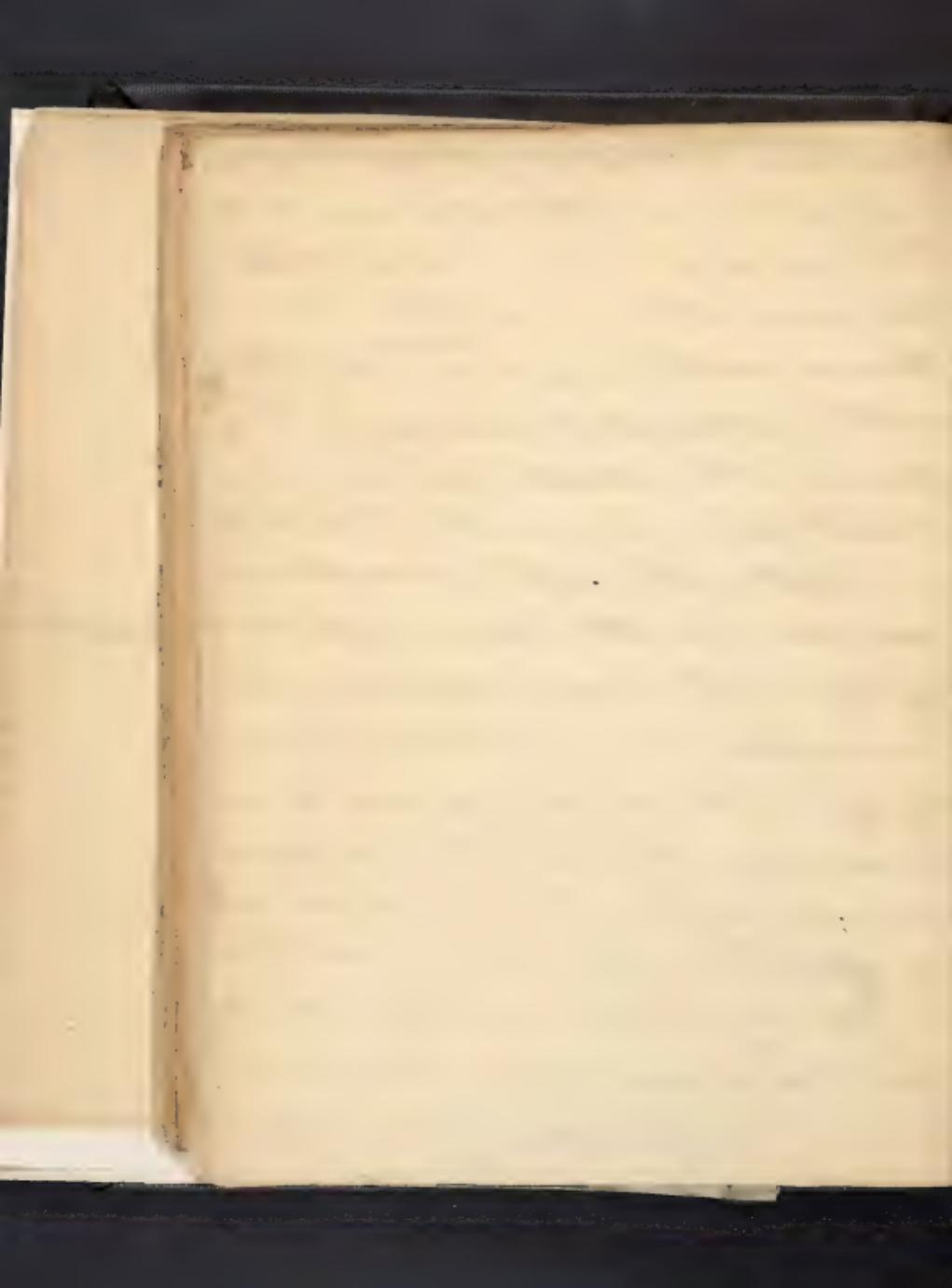
Dr. Rush accounts for this mistake ^{substituted} on many
proves its non-contagious nature, in the
2^d vol. of his medical inquiries.

The danger of the disease, may in general
be estimated by the injury done the con-
dition, in consequence of the long con-
tinued, or violent action of the already
mentioned causes; it is owing to this, that
hereditary consumptions are most dan-
gerous & difficult of cure; & we may
from them, also in part, conceive of
the importance of attacking the dis-
ease in its early stage—

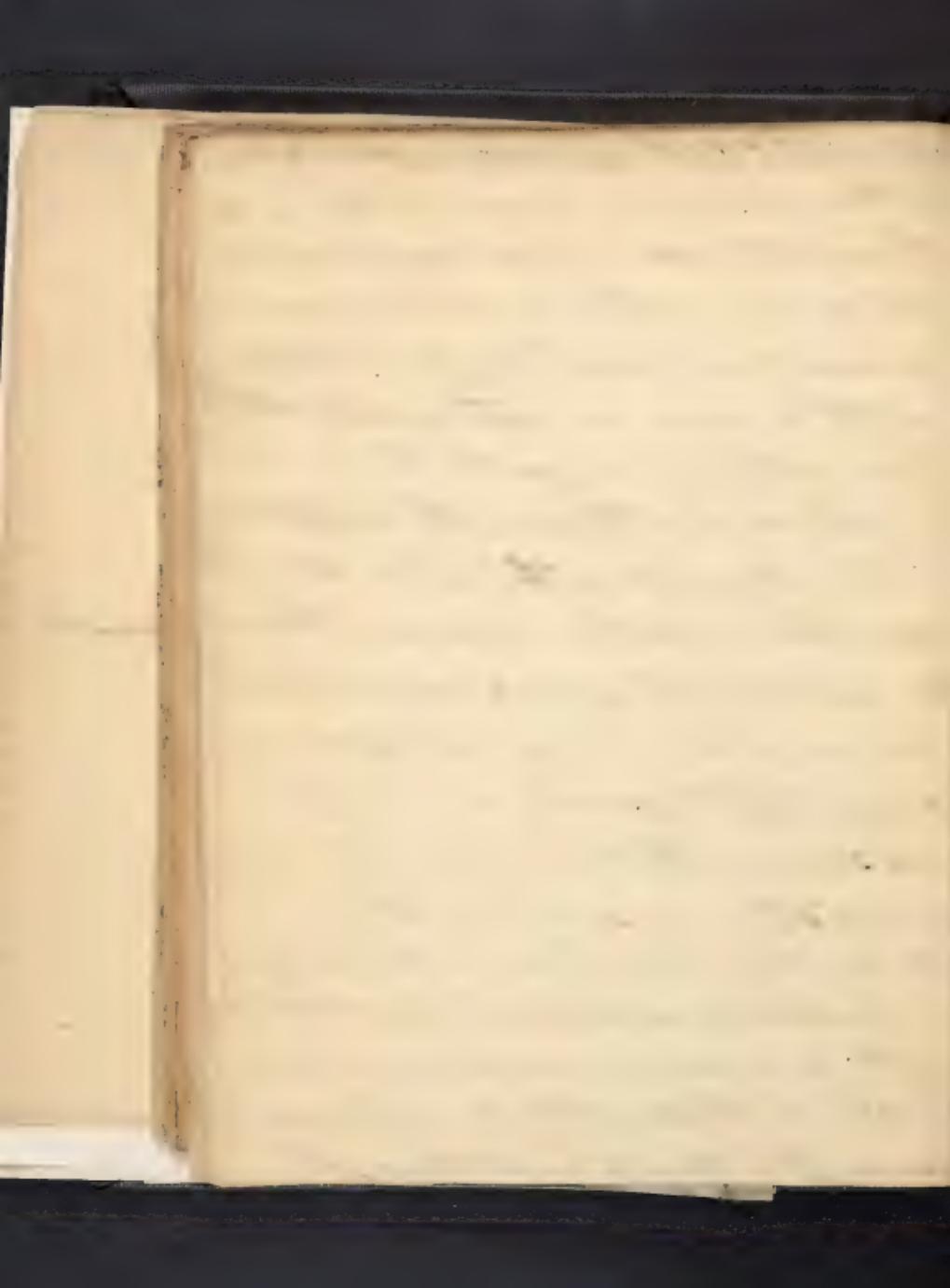
As all the causes which have been
enumerated, either act on the whole
system, or by inducing general debility
when they act only on a part, we might
a priori, expect the first symptoms would
make their appearance in the whole
system, & this some time before any local



effects could be observed—just as we would reason, is the fact, & the first alarms the patient receives are fatigue, & hurried respiration on slighter exertions than induces them in health, his pulse also ^{becomes} quicker than natural, especially towards evening, he is troubled with occasional headache, vertigo & faintings, he is more liable to take cold & be affected with cough, his bowels become irregular, alternately constive & loose, he is afflicted with a burning sensation in his hands & this increases as evening approaches his eyes are rheumatic when he wakes, his urine more copious, attended with a dry skin & particularly hot in the morning, his cheeks are flushed, no appetite fails, he grows thin he feels languid & indisposed to exertion, his voice becomes hoarser & weaker, & fits of trembling pains occur in different parts



of his chest, with occasional hemipysis, which
at this period of the disease is rather useful
than otherwise - These symptoms alone
but especially if attended with the usual
marks of an hereditary predisposition,
ought to receive our most prompt atten-
tion, but it is to be regretted they are often
neglected & when they are, the symptoms
which characterise the inflammatory state
generally make their appearance, they are
an increase of the pain & cough with a
fever, a quick, hard & frequent pulse and
a loss of appetite, generally a red colour of the
face streaked with blood, though the blood
is raw; these are succeeded by the
Hectic Stage which derives its name from
being always accompanied by a hectic fever
with its usual characteristics, as chills
heat at night sweat & a very frequent
pulse often 130 in a minute during the



paroxysm, & seldom descending below 90
in the remissions. The breathing is labo-
rious during the exacerbation, but
generally relieved by the pro-^{longed} ~~use~~^{use} sweat
which terminates it, the emaciation
& debility increase, the cough is trouble-
some, & the discharges generally pur-
ulent, the tongue moist & clean, the
appetite often surprisingly good, the urine
deposits a copious branny sediment,
the bowels generally constipated, in the early
period of this stage, but towards
the close a diarrhoea attenuates
with the night sweats, & gradually
ushers in the third & last stage, called
Typhus because attended with a fe-
ver of the typhus kind, a weak frequent



pulse. The ^{cough} more troublesome, not only because the patient is weaker, but on the account of the copious purulent discharge which generally continues, but sometimes ceases & appears to be transrated to the bowels from which large quantities of pus like matter pass off, the voice becomes weak & hoarse, the emaciation & debility are very great, the eyes appear sunken & dim & the poor sufferer is totally cut off — Although I have enumerated these symptoms, & they can suspicion, I would not be understood to think, they always occur in the order I have placed them, for I am well aware of their irregularity —

The remedies for phthisis (as for every other disease) must be simple, with the necessary stalks, the system, they must likewise be relieved by the most careful removal of all the



causes which induce it.

When a predisposition to the disease is
electary, it would be proper to begin
to correct it early, by bringing the subject
of it up to some business, which shall re-
quire constant exertion in the open air.
We may prevent its being produced by the
patient, formerly mentioned among its
causes, by paying greater attention to
them now, & conducting convalescents from
them with greater care.

When however from whatever causes
induced the symptoms, which were
first enumerated, are present we should
accommodate our patients up to the state
of the weather & his diet to the state
of his system the latter should be re-
-paired



of articles, calculated to afford nourish-
ment & strength, without stimulating
too much, he should also take gentle ex-
ercise, increasing it in proportion, as he
becomes able to undergo it without ex-
treme fatigue; to these it is often necessary
to add the use of the tonics of the shop,
such as, Steel &c. The cold bath is al-
so very useful - but caution must be ta-
ken, with respect to their administration
in continuo, when any of the inflama-
tory symptoms make their appearance,
on their occurrence blood-letting becomes
necessary, the quantity drawn must
be determined by the pulse, the state of
constitution, the season of the year, &c.
There, also emetics are proper, & par-
ticularly, if the disease has arisen



From cataract - Read prefers Operacumawha,
Dr. Simms speaks highly of the blue
vitriol -

Potter is also useful, caution however
must be observed in its administration,
as it has a great tendency when
long continued to impair digestion -
a milk & vegetable diet, & the salts
of meats, when the stomach is disposed
to catarrh, are necessary concomi-
tants of the above remedy -

Fresh Sabaccio fruits are important
remedies also in this stage -
Dr. Rush observes that he is in a
much advantage from exposure
a cold dry air -

Bistus & Setons are useful in this
stage, & more particularly so if the



Disease originates from respiration -

Rheumatism or gout -

The cough should be allayed by demulcent teas, syrups, &c. & opium or laudanum is useful for this, but, however, if the asthmatic excretions are not great; certain positions of the body often relieve a cough which has resisted other means -

We come now to the second division of the disease stage, & here the strictest attention to the state of the system is necessary. In it is never stationary, but always rising into the inflammatory, & sinking into typhus, making it necessary to have recourse to the remedies for those diseases, as either of them shall predominate -

It is in this state that a salivation



is more useful than in any other, it has
sometimes effected a cure, & bids fairest
when the disease has originated
from fleas, or depend on general
circumstances - much reliance was
at one time placed on Dr. Stalld.
the gates, but there is little ground
to hope much from them; our
greatest reliance should be placed
on well regulated exercise -
The right sweats are best treated by
lime water, arsenic, citric acid
slips or nitrolic, calcined oyster shells,
frictions to the skin with stimulating
substances, sleeping on a mattrap &
when they depend on too much re-
tention, leeches -

When the typhus symptoms appear,
our medicines should be stimulat-



as Crotalaria chinensis, opium, &c. & m
josa, combined with the latter, & if ne-
cessary is used, it should only touch the
mouth, with these various a cordial
& stimulating diet should be advised,
composed of animal food, the viands
should also be stimulating, a milk
pudding brandy, toddy, wine, &c.

These remedies will be found ^{more} useful,
with certain ^{spec} from all in, than
atony Diathesis, they however will not
afford any but temporary relief -

If the cough should continue trouble
some, the syrups formerly mentioned will
be found useful, they should have some
lime with them, some stimulating ar-
ticles; but opium affords the greatest
relief -

The diarrhoea is best commanded by
chalk jellies, compounded with the



tincture of cinnamon & laudanum -
by astrigent medicines, aliments &
drinks, & by laudanum injected into
the bowels; & in short all the reme-
dies for diarrhoea from other causes.

By the suspension of the active
symptoms of the disease, & the tran-
sient advantages, (or there are all)
which these remedies generally
afford, we are enabled to take ad-
vantage of the more permanent
benefits, offered by the important
means of exercise & labour; on this
subject much might be said, but I
shall only observe, that it is as ne-
cessary to accommodate their use to

1

the varying state of the system, as that
of any of the remedies formerly mentioned
when the debility is great, they should
be of the passive kind & gradually
increased on to the active, observing
carefully never to continue them, after
the slightest fatigues is induced -

The writer of this imparts to you
what he has to offer with it, to the medi-
cal professors, his most sincere ac-
knowledgements, for the great advan-
tages he has received from their
respective lectures -

debilitating
liability

This image shows a single, vertically oriented page from an old handwritten manuscript. The paper is a light cream or off-white color, showing significant signs of age and damage. There are numerous dark brown, irregular stains, likely water damage or foxing, particularly concentrated at the bottom. The text is written in a cursive, possibly Gothic script, which is extremely faded. Only faint outlines of the letters are visible, making the content unreadable. The left edge of the page shows the binding, and the overall texture appears rough and aged.